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6. (Previously Presented) The implantable defibrillator of Claim 2, wherein the capacitance of the capacitors are selected so as to minimize the amount of energy to be stored in the capacitors while maximizing a final myocardial voltage within myocardial tissue receiving the pulse waveform.

7. (Previously Presented) The implantable defibrillator of Claim 6, wherein capacitances of the first, second and third capacitors are represented, respectively, by:

$$C_A^{opt} = 0.6673 \cdot \left(\frac{\tau_m}{R_s} \right);$$

$$C_B^{opt} = 0.6673 \cdot \left(\frac{\tau_m}{R_s} \right); \text{ and}$$

$$C_C^{opt} = 1.5356 \cdot \left(\frac{\tau_m}{R_s} \right); \text{ wherein}$$

R_s is a predetermined system resistance; and

τ_m is a predetermined myocardial tissue time constant.

8. (Previously Presented) The implantable defibrillator of Claim 6, wherein the capacitances of the first, second and third capacitors are represented, approximately, by:

$$C_A^{opt} = \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{\tau_m}{R_s} \right);$$

$$C_B^{opt} = \left(\frac{2}{3} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{\tau_m}{R_s} \right); \text{ and}$$

$$C_C^{opt} = \left(\frac{3}{2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{\tau_m}{R_s} \right).$$

9. (Previously Presented) The implantable defibrillator of Claim 6, wherein the switching circuitry is operative to selectively discharge the capacitors during the three steps of the pulse waveform for respective first, second and third time periods.

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20. (Original) In a defibrillator having first, second and third capacitors, a shocking circuit comprising:

- means for charging the capacitors;
- means for generating a first step of a first phase of a defibrillation pulse waveform by discharging the capacitors while the first, second and third capacitors are connected in parallel;
- means for generating a second step of the first phase of the defibrillation pulse waveform by discharging the capacitors while the first and second capacitors are connected in parallel and the third capacitor is connected in series; and
- means for generating a third step of the first phase of the defibrillation pulse waveform by discharging the capacitors while the first, second and third capacitors are connected in series.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20, wherein the means for discharging the capacitors to generate the first, second and third steps of the pulse waveform respectively operate for first, second and third time periods selected to maximize a final myocardial voltage within myocardial tissue receiving the pulse waveform.